

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 23, 2003

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 2, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1441

Introduced by Assembly Member Garcia
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bates and La Suer)

February 21, 2003

An act relating to SAFE teams, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1441, as amended, Garcia. SAFE teams.

Existing law authorizes the establishment of county and regional Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) teams to reduce violent sexual assault offenses.

This bill would appropriate \$15,000,000 from the General Fund to the Controller for distribution to county sheriffs *and city police chiefs* for the implementation of county and regional SAFE team programs, as specified. *The bill would require entities accepting the funds to report to the Department of Finance regarding the program, as specified, and failing that, to return the funds to the state.*

The bill would also set forth the findings and declarations of the Legislature in this regard.

Vote: ²/₃. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares the following:

(a) Habitual sexual assault offenders pose a significant risk to the welfare and safety of the residents of California.

(b) Predatory sex offenders frequently travel to areas outside of the jurisdictions in which they reside to evade surveillance and possible arrest by local law enforcement agencies for probation or parole violations.

(c) Recent data shows that approximately 44 percent of sexual predators are not registering as required under Megan's Law, and law enforcement officials are unaware of their current location.

(d) The Legislature has encouraged the formation of regional law enforcement task forces consisting of officers and agents from several law enforcement agencies organized for the explicit purpose of reducing violent sexual assaults through proactive surveillance and arrests of habitual sexual offenders.

(e) The funding of the Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) Teams is critical to tracking sexually violent predators and protecting the welfare and safety of Californians.

SEC. 2. (a) The sum of fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Controller for distribution to county sheriffs for the implementation of county and regional SAFE team programs pursuant to Chapter 9.7 (commencing with Section 13887) of Title 6 of Part 4 of the Penal Code.

(b) No county may use funds provided pursuant to this act to supplant any other sources of funding.

(c) *The funds appropriated by this act shall be allocated by the Controller for the implementation of county and regional SAFE team programs pursuant to Chapter 9.7 (commencing with Section 13887) of Title 6 of Part 4 of the Penal Code.*

(d) *The funds shall be allocated to county sheriffs and city police chiefs in accordance with the proportionate share of sex offender registrants residing within a SAFE Team jurisdiction, as determined by the Department of Justice.*

(e) *By accepting the funds provided by this act, local entities agree to report in writing to the Department of Finance on or before August 15, 2004. The Department of Finance shall make the*

1 *report available to the Legislature. The report shall include, but*
2 *not be limited to, the data measuring the objectives identified in*
3 *Section 13887.3, and the signature of the county sheriff, city police*
4 *chief, special district administrator, or their designees.*

5 *(f) Local entities that receive funds pursuant to this act and that*
6 *either do not agree to the reporting requirements or do not report*
7 *within the specified time shall return the grant money provided by*
8 *the Controller within 30 days after the due date of the report. Any*
9 *returned funds shall revert to the General Fund.*

